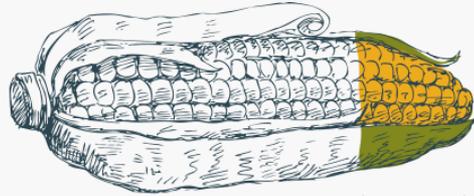




# 2015 Flood Impact on South Carolina Agriculture

THE AGRIBUSINESS CLUSTER  
HAS A TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF  
**\$41.7 BILLION**

IN 2013



ECONOMIC IMPACT HAS  
INCREASED **23%**

SINCE 2006

THE AGRIBUSINESS CLUSTER ACCOUNTED FOR

**109,141**

DIRECT JOBS

&

**212,530**

JOBS TOTAL



REPRESENTING  
**10.5%**  
OF THE STATE'S  
WORKFORCE

IN 2013

**The Impact of the Agribusiness Sector on the South Carolina Economy**



**Aerial Photo Taken October 5, 2015**



**Farm in Darlington County**



**Poultry Farm in Clarendon County**

**Table 1: Estimated Losses in the Field and from Prevented Planting**

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<b>Losses in the Field</b>		<b>Losses from Prevented Planting</b>	
Peanuts	\$72,899,200	Wheat	\$24,331,883
Cotton	\$86,121,984	Oats	\$1,393,140
Soybeans	\$125,846,000	Canola/Rapeseed	\$284,646
Vegetables	\$45,000,000	Vegetables	\$15,000,000
Fruit	\$10,000,000	Fruit	\$5,000,000
Total	\$329,867,184	Total	\$46,009,669
Total Loss		\$375,876,853	

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Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency and South Carolina Department of Agriculture.



**Farmers are still unable to reach their crops.**

# SCDA Involvement

- SERT ESF 11 (food) and 17 (animal agriculture)
- Damage assessment
- Hay and feed analysis
- Sample grades of peanuts and grain
- Fuel quality
- Developed protocols for evaluation of food crops in flooded areas
- 5 Team SC events and 6 farmer meetings
- Meeting with RMA Deputy Administrator

Flooding inside RJ Reynolds tobacco warehouse on east McIntyre street in Mullins via David Bellamy.



# Crop Insurance

- 2015 would have been a break-even year at best
- Crop insurance does not even cover production costs
- Diversification when allocating acres usually provides some protection
- Farmers can not be paid until crop is released of harvested; destroyed if 100% loss

# Example

- Assuming farmers purchased 70% coverage
- 215,000 acres in SC (USDA NASS)
  - Production cost per acre = \$580
  - Crop insurance payout for 100% loss = \$330.75
  - \$249.25 (43%) of production costs are unprotected loss
  - $215,000 \times \$249.25 = \$53,588,750$  unprotected loss statewide

# The Landscape

- Severe infrastructure damage
  - Farm roads, irrigation pond dams, irrigation systems
- Farmers are frustrated by bureaucracy
- Farmers don't want or need more loans
- Losing a house is bad, losing a job and income potential is hopeless
- This is a food and economic security emergency

Jeremy Cannon-Clarendon County; tobacco, cotton, corn, soybeans

**“While the money does need to go to the farmer, it will end up being the support for our local communities, as we spread it to all the local businesses like we have done for so many years. To me it’s not my job. It’s my heritage, my family, my life, and now its future is in the balance, hoping for someone to throw out a lifeline.”**